

Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

SEDALIA, MO., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1907.

NO. 34

A PETITION

By The Students and Faculty of George R. Smith College File An Urgent Petition With The Legislature Through Representative E. E. Johnston of Pettis County.

To the Honorable E. E. Johnston and other members of the Missouri House of Representatives:

Honorable and Respected Sirs:—Whereas there has been reported to the House of Representatives with recommend for passage a bill providing for separate railway and street cars and waiting rooms for the white and the colored races. Therefore, we, the undersigned teachers and students in the Geo. R. Smith College, being of those who would be directly affected if the proposed measure should become a law, and representing a large number of others, do respectfully petition and pray that you personally vote against the passage of this bill, and so far as you are able to influence others to do the same.

In support to our plea we present the following considerations:

1st. In all cases where similar measures have been adopted, the accommodations for the colored people have been greatly inferior to those for the whites, and in most places positively inadequate and offensive, although the same charges were exacted. We have no reason to believe that the rule will break down in this case and that the unjust and illegal discrimination will not be applied to us.

2nd. Endeavoring to be lawabiding, orderly and polite members of the traveling public, infringing on the rights of no one, and carefully striving to offend no one in any way, we feel that such a measure as is proposed to be an uncalled for discrimination and a humiliation of our self-respect, and not in accordance with the Golden Rule.

3rd. As the number of Negroes in the State is comparatively small—only 200,000 in a population of 4,000,000. The pretext for such a measure is less obvious, than in some other states. At the same time the smaller numbers might be made a pretext for the public carriers, the street and railway cars, not to provide suitable accommodations.

For these and similar reasons, not to mention the principles of justice and humanity, we respectfully pray and petition that the proposed bill be not enacted into a law.

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THE CONSERVATOR

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Aits Jim-Crow Law Can Not Fine.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF STATE FORCED BY NIAGARA MOVEMENT LAWYER TO COME INTO SUPREME COURT OF STATE AND ADMIT ERROR IN LOWER COURT'S DECISION IN UP HOLDING FINE OF MISS POPE.

Holds Railroad Can Eject Under State Jimcrow Law Even Interstate Passengers—Civil Case To Be Brought Next To Get Decision As To Constitutionality of State Law.

General Public Should Send Donations to Help in Expense of This Work for Good of Race to F. L. McGee, St. Paul, Minnesota, Head of Legal Bureau of The Niagara Movement.

Last August, Miss Barbara Pope, a colored lady of Washington, D. C., boarded a southern train in that city for a point near Falls Church, Virginia. The conductor directed her to take one of the cars assigned to colored passengers, but this she declined to do. The train proceeded to Fall church, and on its arrival there the woman was placed under arrest by a policeman and taken before the mayor, who imposed a fine on the woman for violation of the "Jim Crow" law. She was also detained for nearly twenty-four hours from reaching her destination by reason of the arrest.

Counsel for the woman contended that she was an interstate passenger and that she could not be required to conform to the Virginia law. She was taken to the circuit court of Fairfax county, Virginia, where the judgment of the trial court was affirmed. An appeal was then taken to the Supreme Court of the state. When the case was called the Attorney General entered a confession of error for the state and the case was remanded for trial.

The attorney general says that the law in the case does not provide for fine on the part of the offending passengers in such cases, but holds that they can be removed from the trains. In cases of the violations on the street cars the offenders are liable to arrest and fine or imprisonment, as no inconvenience follows for the passenger and the police can be called on to take charge of offenders. In case of railroad trains the company is liable to a fine of \$500 for not removing such offending passengers.

The Legal Department of the Niagara Movement has charge of this case and it determines to fight the matter to the last ditch. The Niagara Movement was interested in the case, while at Harper's Ferry last summer, through attorney C. G. Morgan, of Boston, a personal friend of Miss Pope.

—Baltimore Guide, Jan. 26.

Poor old Missouri is about to take a backward step by the enactment of Class Legislation against her Negro citizens. Statesmen and politicians are need in our Legislature.

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell

Greatest Lady Lecturer of The Race Will Visit Sedalia on The 21st.

Mrs. Terrell was chosen as one of the speakers at the International Congress of Women which was held in Berlin, Germany, June, 1904. Her address on that occasion was widely commented upon, because she was the only one of the American delegates who spoke in German. "The woman who made the best appearance of the convention," according to M. Remy, the correspondent of the Paris Temps, "was Mrs. Terrell of Washington, 'a lady of Andalusian complexion,' who in ease of manner, gracefulness and force of gesture and naturalness of expression was ahead of all other oratrices. Mrs. Terrell spoke in German with the same fluency and ease as in her native tongue." The Washington Post declared editorially: "The hit of the Congress, on the part of the American delegates was made by Mrs. Mary Church Terrell of Washington, who delivered one speech in German and another in equally good French. Mrs. Terrell is a colored woman who appears to have been beyond every other of our delegates prominent for her ability to make addresses in other than her own language." In a syndicate letter to some of the largest newspapers in the country Mrs. Ida Husted Harper said "Mrs. Terrell was able to deliver one speech in excellent German and one equally good in French. This achievement on the part of a colored woman, added to a fine appearance and the eloquence of her words, carried the audience by storm and she had to respond three times to the encores before they were satisfied. It was more than a personal triumph, it was a triumph for her race."



THE NOTED LECTURER

Mrs. Terrell is yet a young woman and has before her a future of usefulness. Her splendid work is doing much towards creating a sentiment in favor of her race. Wherever she speaks, her eloquent utterances and chaste diction make a deep impression which must have its influence in the final shaping of the vexed problems that confront the colored people of this country. Her exceptional attainments and general demeanor are a wonderful force in eradicating the prejudice against colored women. She is making an opening for her sisters as no one else is doing or has done. This gifted and highly cultured woman will lecture at George R. Smith College, Sedalia, Mo.,

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February 21st. Every Negro in and near Sedalia should hear her by all means. She comes to lecture under the auspices of the Students' Lecture Bureau.

WHAT NEXT?

CELEBRATION

At Missionary Baptist Church Tuesday Night, Feb. 12, '07.

There will be a Lincoln-Douglas Celebration at the Baptist Church, Feb. 12, by the citizens of Sedalia. Following well known leaders will address the meeting: Revs. R. Davis, Wm. Alexander, R. Adkins and Prof. A. C. Maclin of George R. Smith College, Editor W. H. Huston and others.

The students of George R. Smith College and Lincoln High school will be asked to furnish music for the evening.

The public is invited to be present.

Prof. C. C. Hubbard, principal of Lincoln High school will be chairman of the meeting.

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